lower than the notified prices. Market prices of drugs are not monitored by the Government and manufacturers are free to sell the bulk drugs at prices not exceeding the maximum sale prices fixed by the Government. Notified prices of the drugs in question are given below;

S. No.	Name of the bulk drugs	Notified price
		Rs./Kg.
1.	Ampicillin Trihydrate	1925·00
2.	Metronidazole	482·00
3.	Ammoxicillin Trihydrate	2666·00
4.	Analgin	280·00
5.	Ampicillin Anhydrous.	2631 00
6.	Cephalexin	4842·00

There are a large number of producers of each of these drugs.

(d) The prices of formulations are fixed based on the notified price on the market price whichever is lower. This ensures that the benefit of lower prices goes to the public.

(e) and (f) Prices of Analgin formulations have been reduced re. cently.

(g) BICP verifies the purchase invoices before recommending the prices of formulation of the Government

Legal opinion on sel'J offs on Unintended benefits earned by drug Companies

2236. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM ANT) CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he has been misquoted on the issue of set off on unitended benefits earned by drug companies in various newspa-papers;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to clarify Government's stand;

(c) what is the legal position of set offs and whether any opinion has been sought from legal cell of the Ministry of law;

(d) if so, when and what was the opinion given;

fe) whether this issue has been raised in any court also;

(f) if so, what was the decision of courts on this issue;

(g) whether his Ministry has allowed set offs in any case; and

(h) if so, what are the details thereof and what steps have been taken to reetify the same? ——

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY); (a) to (f) It has already been clarified that issue of set offs and recovery into the Drug Prices Equalisation Account would be decided in accordance with the provisions of Drugs (Prices Control) Orders, the court judgements on the issue and the opinion obtained from the Department of Legal Affairs from time to time.

(g) and (h) The process of finalising the amounts due from the various companies is in progress. Illegitimate set offs allowed, if any, would also get reviewed in the process of finalising the amounts.